



**Kiry K. Gray**

District Court Executive / Clerk of Court  
350 West 1st Street, Suite 4311  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**United States District Court**  
Central District of California  
**Office of the Clerk**

**Jeffrey S. Thomason**

Acting Chief Probation and Pretrial Services Officer  
255 East Temple Street, Suite 1410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Cristina M. Squieri Bullock**

Chief Deputy of Administration  
350 West 1st Street, Suite 4311  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Sara Tse Soo Hoo**

Chief Deputy of Operations  
255 East Temple Street, Suite TS-134  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

August 26, 2021

Brent H. Blakely  
Blakely Law Group  
1334 Parkview Avenue, Suite 280  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Email: [bblakely@blakelylawgroup.com](mailto:bblakely@blakelylawgroup.com)

Cindy W. Chan  
Blakely Law Group  
1334 Parkview Avenue, Suite 280  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Email: [cchan@blakelylawgroup.com](mailto:cchan@blakelylawgroup.com)

Laura L. Chapman  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton LLP  
4 Embarcadero Center 17th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Email: [lchapman@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:lchapman@sheppardmullin.com)

Re: *Guru Denim, Inc. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., et al.*  
2:09-CV-08581 DDP (Ex)

Dear Mr. Blakely, Ms. Chan, and Ms. Chapman:

I have been contacted by Judge Dean D. Pregerson, who presided over the above-mentioned case, which is now closed.

Judge Pregerson informed me that he has recently discovered that, during the time he presided over the case, his children owned stock in Wal-Mart. His children's ownership of stock neither affected nor impacted his decisions in this case. Judge Pregerson did not make any substantive rulings in the case, which the parties resolved between themselves. Nevertheless, his children's stock ownership may have required recusal under the Code of Conduct for United States Judges. Therefore, Judge Pregerson directed that I notify the parties of the conflict.

**Eastern Division**

3470 Twelfth Street, Room 134  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Southern Division**

411 West Fourth Street, Suite 1053  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

*Guru Denim, Inc. v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., et al.*

2:09-CV-08581 DDP (Ex)

August 26, 2021

Advisory Opinion 71, from the Judicial Conference Codes of Conduct Committee, provides the following guidance for addressing disqualification that is not discovered until after a judge has participated in a case:

[A] judge should disclose to the parties the facts bearing on disqualification as soon as those facts are learned, even though that may occur after entry of the decision. The parties may then determine what relief they may seek and a court (without the disqualified judge) will decide the legal consequence, if any, arising from the participation of the disqualified judge in the entered decision.

Although Advisory Opinion 71 contemplated disqualification after oral argument before a Court of Appeals, the Committee explained “[s]imilar considerations would apply when a judgment was entered in a district court by a judge and it is later learned that the judge was disqualified.”

With Advisory Opinion 71 in mind, you are invited to respond to Judge Pregerson’s disclosure of a conflict in this case, including any request to reopen the case. Should you wish to respond, please submit your response by filing it on the docket on or before September 25, 2021. Any response will be considered by another judge of this District without the participation of Judge Pregerson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kiry K. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Kiry K. Gray

District Court Executive/Clerk of the Court